

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method to monitor the response of a patient being treated for cancer by administering ~~an anti-cancer agent~~ a Raf kinase inhibitor, comprising the steps of: (a) determining the level of expression of one or more proteins in a first biological sample taken from the patient prior to treatment with the ~~anti-cancer agent~~ Raf kinase inhibitor; (b) determining the level of expression of the one or more proteins in at least a second biological sample taken from the patient subsequent to the treatment with the ~~anti-cancer agent~~ Raf kinase inhibitor; and (c) comparing the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the second biological sample with the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first biological sample; wherein the level of protein expression is assessed by immunohistochemistry and wherein a change in the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the second biological sample compared to the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first biological sample indicates the efficacy of the treatment with the ~~anti-cancer agent~~ Raf kinase inhibitor.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more proteins is includes pERK.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cancer is selected from lung cancer,

renal cancer, pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, thyroid cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and melanoma.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a tumor biopsy.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method for discovering novel ~~drugs~~ Raf kinase inhibitor for the treatment of cancer, comprising the steps of: (a) determining the level of expression of one or more proteins in a first tumor cell sample prior to treatment with ~~the anticancer agent~~ a candidate Raf kinase inhibitor; (b) determining the level of expression of the one or more proteins in at least a second tumor cell sample subsequent to the treatment with the ~~anticancer agent~~ candidate Raf kinase inhibitor; and (c) comparing the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the second tumor cell sample with the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first tumor cell sample; wherein the level of protein expression is assessed by immunohistochemistry and wherein a change in the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the second tumor cell sample compared to the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first tumor cell sample indicates the efficacy of the ~~anticancer agent~~ candidate Raf kinase inhibitor.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more proteins is

includes pERK.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said tumor cells are selected from lung cancer, renal cancer, pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, thyroid cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and melanoma.

19. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a cancer patients eligible for anti-cancer treatment with a Raf kinase inhibitor, comprising the steps of (a) determining the level of expression of one or more proteins in a first biological sample taken from a cancer patient, said patient having been administered a Raf kinase inhibitor; (b) comparing the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first biological sample with the level of expression of the one or more proteins in a second biological sample taken from a normal patient sample, said normal patient having been administered a Raf kinase inhibitor; wherein the level of protein expression is assessed by immunohistochemistry and a change in the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the first biological sample compared to the level of expression of the one or more proteins in the second biological sample is a prognostic of that patient's response to anti-cancer treatment with the Raf kinase inhibitor.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said one or more proteins is
includes pERK.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the patient has been diagnosed with cancer
is selected from lung cancer, renal cancer, pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, gastrointestinal cancer,
thyroid cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and melanoma.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said sample is a tumor biopsy.

25. (Cancelled)